## Real Wonders: Lot's Wife and the Cockatoo

HE explorer to the Wollondilly Caves must be a person of courage. Strength of limb, as well as strength of will and courage, is necessary to make the 136 miles from Sydney, Australia, into the mountains.

A steep climb leads to the mouth of the caves, and then the daring one begins a long descent into weird and beautiful interiors.

Through dim tunnels and along misty galleries he feels his way. Ghostlike forms present themselves and melt away on every side. Many of these shapes are so clear



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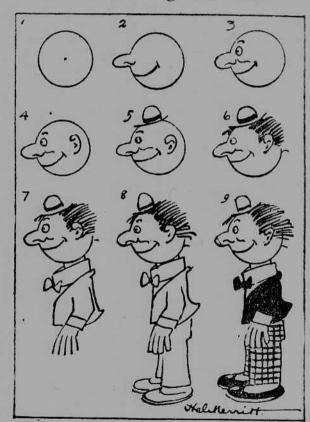
and so like living beings that the visitors to the caves have named some of them in their fancy.

On the crest of one of the slopes are two white figures; giant stalagmites, which have been named according to their appearance. To the left a huge white cockatoo seems to be guarding a snow-white nest. Higher, and to the right, the figure is that of a shrouded woman. Stalactites and stalagmites are usually frosted white formations, and these stalagmites make the explorer feel that surely here is the original Lot's wife, turned to a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's command in the old story

in Genesis, and looked back at the wicked city of Sodom, from which she and her family were fleeing.

Stalactites and stalagmites are found in caves and form pillars and other ornaments of nature's own architecture. They are the deposit from water that drips from cracks and fissures in the roof. As the water drips, part of the mineral deposit falls on the floor and part of it is deposited on the ceiling as it drops through. So two columns are formed at once, one from the floor and one from the ceiling. Pillars are formed when the twin columns meet,

## A Drawing Lesson



1. Use any coin to make circle; 2. On it draw nose and mouth; 3. Eyes; 4. Ear; 5. Hat; 6. Hair; 7. Neck, Collar, Cravat, Coat, Hand; 8. Finish hand, legs, feet; 9. Fill in. Don't necessarily copy this drawing. Make your own, following these directions. Be original. Erase unnecessary lines before inking. Use No. 170 pen and black waterproof drawing ink.